

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Frank Perez,

Plaintiff,

v.

Atlantic Recovery Solutions, LLC; and DOES
1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

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: Civil Action No.: 1:15-cv-10085
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: **COMPLAINT**
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For this Complaint, Plaintiff, Frank Perez, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* (the "FDCPA").
2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff, Frank Perez ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Haverhill, Massachusetts, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
5. Defendant Atlantic Recovery Solutions, LLC ("Atlantic"), is a New York business entity with an address of 275 Northpointe, Suite 80, Amherst, New York, 14226, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

6. Does 1-10 (the “Collectors”) are individual collectors employed by Atlantic and whose identities are currently unknown to Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.

7. Atlantic at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

8. Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the “Debt”) to Best Buy (the “Creditor”).

9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes, which meets the definition of a “debt” under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Atlantic for collection, or Atlantic was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.

11. Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in “communications” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. Atlantic Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

12. On or about December 10, 2014, Atlantic left Plaintiff a voicemail message threatening to sue Plaintiff if the Debt was not paid.

13. To date, Plaintiff has not received notice of any suit filed against him.

14. On the same day, Atlantic left a message for Plaintiff’s uncle in which it revealed that Plaintiff owed the Debt, and stated that Plaintiff would be sued if the Debt was not paid.

15. This disclosure caused Plaintiff a great deal of stress and embarrassment.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

16. Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct.

17. As a direct consequence of Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

COUNT I
VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

18. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

19. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(1) in that Defendants contacted Plaintiff's uncle for a purpose other than to confirm or correct location information.

20. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(2) in that Defendants stated to Plaintiff's uncle that Plaintiff owed a debt.

21. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b) in that Defendants disclosed details regarding the Debt to Plaintiff's uncle.

22. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse Plaintiff in connection with collection of the Debt.

23. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e in that Defendants used false, deceptive and/or misleading representations or means in connection with collection of the Debt.

24. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5) in that Defendants threatened to take legal action against Plaintiff, without actually intending to do so.

25. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f in that Defendants used unfair and unconscionable means to collect the Debt.

26. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA.

27. Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

COUNT II
VIOLATIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT,
M.G.L. c. 93A § 2, et seq.

28. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

29. Defendants employed unfair or deceptive acts to collect the Debt, in violation of M.G.L. c. 93A § 2.

30. Defendants stated they would take any action, including legal action, which in fact was not taken or attempted on Plaintiff's account, unless an additional payment or a new agreement to pay would occur, in violation of 940 CMR § 7.04(1)(l).

31. Defendants contacted persons, other than Plaintiff and those residing in Plaintiff's household, and implied the fact of the debt to any such person, in violation of 940 CMR § 7.06(1)(a).

32. Defendant's failure to comply with these provisions constitutes an unfair or deceptive act under M.G.L. c. 93A § 9 and, as such, Plaintiff is entitled to double or treble damages plus reasonable attorney's fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendants:

1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);

3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.
§ 1692k(a)(3);
4. Double or treble damages plus reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to M.G.L.
c. 93A § 3(A);
5. Punitive damages; and
6. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: January 15, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Sergei Lemberg

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